THE NEW AVENGERS

THE TRUST
PART FIVE

PREVIOUSLY...

After the superhuman civil war, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman went underground rather than register their identities with the government. Together with Clint Barton--now wearing the costume of Ronin--Doctor Strange, Iron Fist, and Maya Lopez, the deaf woman also known as Echo, they operate out of Doctor Strange's Sanctum Sanctorum.

Recently, during a fight in Japan, Elektra, the leader of the Hand, was killed. Upon her death, her body reverted into its true form: that of a shape-shifting Skrull, sending the Avengers into a tailspin of mistrust. While on a hunt for more information about the possible alien invasion, Wolverine discovers the plans of a mysterious villain called the Hood who is about to launch an attack on Avengers Tower, home of Tony Stark's Mighty Avengers. Unbeknownst to the Avengers, the Hood has organized a large number of super-villains and is preparing to take down the members of the super hero community one by one.

Meanwhile, after a mysterious virus is dropped to Earth from a satellite, most of the citizens of New York City have turned into symbiotes. Led by Ms. Marvel and Iron Man, the Mighty Avengers enter into a battle that they may not win, especially when they begin to transform as well…

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UH, HEY...
LUKE CAGE?
YEAH.
WHAT IS...GOIN' ON?
WHAT IS THIS?
WHO? WHO DROPPED WHAT?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW.
BUT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING LIVING AND BREATHING IN THE ENTIRE CITY OF NEW YORK TURNED VENOM AND WAS RUNNING AROUND TRANSFORMED!
EATING AND FIGHTING AND SCREAMING.
IT WAS IN-SANE.
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
ALL I KNOW IS...
...THE REST OF MY CREW AIN'T DOIN' SO WELL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY DID YOU NOT CHANGE?
NOW I KNOW IT'S BECAUSE OF MY POWERS--MY UNBREAKABLE SKIN.
NO CHEMICAL GOT INTO MY PORES. NO CHANGE.
THEN I SLAMMED HEADFIRST INTO STARK'S AVENGERS TEAM, AND THE ONES WITH THE POWERS WERE STILL FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT--
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I MEAN, COME ON!
THE WHOLE CITY WAS VENOMS?
EVERY MAN, WOMAN, CHILD, DOG, CAT AND BIRD.
AND WE COULDN'T EXACTLY BREAK OUT THE CANS BECAUSE THESE'RE JUST PEOPLE.
THESE ARE THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE @#$% IS GOING ON OR WHAT THEY'RE DOING, RIGHT?
SO NOW WHAT? YOU'RE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE CAROL AND THE OTHERS.
EXACTLY.
TONY STARK DIDN'T TRY TO ARREST YOU?
HAD HIS HANDS FULL.
HE UP AND LEFT ANYHOW.
HE LEFT?
HE WAS TRYING TO CURE THE PROBLEM.
MAN!
IRON MAN SAID WE SHOULD JUST STAY HERE AND NOT DO ANYTHING?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU?
AND I LOOKED OVER AND LOGAN'S REALLY ALL TWISTIN' AND TURNIN'.
TWISTING AND TURNING?
HEALING FACTOR KEEPS TRYING TO PUSH THIS OUT A ME.
IT HURTS A LOT MORE THAN YOU'D THINK!
ARGH!
YOUR FRIEND THE WASP WAS A SIXTY-FOOT VENOM MONSTER.
SHE'S NOT MY FRIEND, SHE'S CAROL'S FRIEND.
WELL, SHE WAS A SIXTY-FOOT MONSTER.
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY?!
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MILLION OTHER MONSTERS.
AGH!
FABOOM

THEY HAD TO TAKE HER OUT.
NOT TO SOUND STUPID—BUT DID CAROL SAY ANYTHING TO YOU ABOUT ANYTHING?
NO.
NOTHING?
TOOM
ONE DOWN...
WELL, I SAID TO HER...
MAN!
YOU NEVER KNOW HOW A DAY'S GOING TO GO WHEN YOU GET OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING, HUH?
OR SOME @#$.
YOU'RE FIGHTING RIGHT ALONGSIDE HER? ALL THE OTHER AVENGERS?
YES.
AND SHE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING?
I'M TELLIN' YA, WE HAD OUR HANDS FULL.
YEAH, SURE, BUT...
AND THEN...

TONY STARK WHIPPED SOMETHING TOGETHER...
...AND EVERYTHING CALMED DOWN.
WOW.
YEAH.
WOW. IS-- WAS THIS ON I.V.?
I'M SURE IT IS AND WAS.
UH...
WHAT AM I--?
MOMMY!

THEY RAN LIKE HELL?
THEY STAYED AND THEY HELPED.
EVEN THOUGH THE PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO BRING US IN WERE RIGHT THERE IN FRONT OF OUR FACES AND CLEARLY IN BETTER SHAPE THAN THE SHAPE WE WERE IN...
WE DIDN'T EVEN DISCUSS IT WITH EACH OTHER. WE JUST GOT UP, ALL OF US, IN WHATEVER CONDITION WE WERE IN...AND HELPED.
I SWEAR, I DREAMT THIS ENTIRE THING ONCE.
I'M CASTING A SERIES OF SPELLS THAT WILL SOOTHE THE PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL STATE.
MAGIC LEXAPRO.
IS EVERYONE OKAY?
YEAH, WE'RE ALL JUST PEACHY.
STARK AND CAROL AND THE OTHERS JUST STARED IN AMAZEMENT.
I'M STARING IN AMAZEMENT AND I WASN'T EVEN THERE.
YOU SHOW ME WHERE YOUR MOMMY IS. DO YOU KNOW HER FIRST NAME?
WE WERE SHOPPING.
WHAT'S HER NAME? DO YOU KNOW HER NAME?
DID CAROL SAY ANYTHING THEN?
NAH.
AND THEY JUST LET YOU GO?
PRETTY MUCH.
MAYBE THINGS WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL NOW.
MAYBE WE DODGED A BULLET BECAUSE THE ENTIRE CITY WAS A MESS
MAYBE IT'S #@%# LIKE THIS THAT'LL MAKE CAROL AND STARK REALIZE HOW MESSED UP EVERYTHING IS.
MAYBE.
MAYBE THEY'RE SKRULLS.
MAYBE.
OH, AND JESSICA DREW WAS WITH THEM.
NO!
YES.
SHE SWITCHED SIDES?
LOOKS LIKE.
SO STARK KNOWS WHERE WE LIVE--ABOUT THE SKRULL THING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.

JERSEY? WHAT ARE WE DOING IN JERSEY?
OTHER THAN BREAKING MY RULE ABOUT NEVER STEPPING FOOT IN JERSEY.
LOOK.
WELL, DAMN!
YUP. ONE OF THE LARGEST CASH HEISTS IN U.S. HISTORY.
HOW MUCH?
YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES. THEY'RE NOT SAYING, BUT THE TUBE SAID WELL OVER TEN MILLION.
AND LOOK THERE...
THAT WOULD BE DEATHLOK IN A COUPLE OF PIECES.
GUESS THEY THOUGHT THERE WASN'T ENOUGH CASH IN TRASHING AVENGERS TOWER.
OR THAT VENOM BOMB-THING WAS A DISTRACTION FOR *THIS*.
KINGPIN DID STUFF LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME.
MADE A NOISE OVER *HERE*, SO HE COULD GET AWAY WITH SOMETHING OVER *THERE*.
NOPE. THE VENOM THING WAS DOOM.
STARK'S BOYS ARE ALREADY HEADING TO LATVERIA TO MOP THE FLOOR WITH HIM.
ABOUT TIME.
I-I'M SORRY-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE HERE.

"AS THIS LIVE SECURITY CAMERA FEED SHOWS, THE AVENGERS WERE ON THE SCENE, BUT STILL THE QUESTION REMAINS--"
DEADLINENEWS
SYMBIOTE-RELATED MADNESS TAKES OVER NEW YORK.
LIVE
THAT'S NEW YORK CITY?
DO YOU SEE WHERE IT SAYS NEW YORK CITY?
COME ON, MAN...
DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?
SOME SORT OF BIOLOGICAL ATTACK.
OPPORTUNITY.
GRAND OPPORTUNITY.
S'UP?
BOOM
OOF!!
TELL ME YOU WERE STUPID ENOUGH TO COME ALONE, CAGE...

HARDLY.
TO BE CONTINUED...